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PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:  
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### CONFIRMED CASE OF MEASLES IN PIMA COUNTY

Pima County, Arizona – February 22, 2008 – Measles has been confirmed in a local visitor who spent time as a patient at Northwest Medical Center, 6200 North La Cholla Blvd, between February 12 and February 15, both in the Emergency Department and as an inpatient during the infectious period. As measles is highly contagious through the air, the Pima County Health Department will be working with Northwest Medical Center to follow up on any possible exposures.

Early symptoms of measles include red eyes, fever, runny nose, and cough followed in a few days by a rash that starts on the face and heads down the body. Conjunctivitis (red eyes) is the main symptom that distinguishes it from flu early in the onset of the disease. The incubation period (time from exposure to first symptoms) is generally between 7 and 21 days.

According to the CDC, measles has NOT been controlled worldwide and is a very common disease (MILLIONS of cases in Africa and India and THOUSANDS of cases in Europe each year...). The best way to protect yourself is to get two doses of the vaccine. The best way to protect immuno-compromised persons who cannot be vaccinated is to have everyone around them vaccinated and immune. For vaccinations contact the Health Department or your physician.

Most people experience measles and it runs its course without complications. When there are complications, they may include otitis media, pneumonia, and encephalitis, and are more likely to occur in children younger than 5 years of age and in immuno-compromised persons of all ages. People concerned they might have symptoms of measles should call the Health Department Call Center and/or an outpatient provider before going in to be seen to arrange for isolation during the evaluation and to prevent the possible exposure of others.

Pima County Health Department is asking that anyone who may have spent time as a patient or visitor at Northwest Hospital on February 12 between 8 am and 2:30 pm, or between February 13 at 10:00 am and February 15 at 12:00 midnight call the Pima County Health Department Call Center at **243-7808** to review their immunization/illness and how they may have possibly been exposed. This number at the Health Department will be available starting on Friday from 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm to receive this information, and will remain open 8:30 am until 4:30 pm through the week end and into next week. Depending on the exposure, follow up calls to those who are not found to be immune may be conducted.

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